



## *The President's Daily Brief*

29 December 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The Saigon government's campaign against opposition elements continues. (Page 2)

Prime Minister Sato's party won an impressive victory in Japan's national elections. (Page 3)

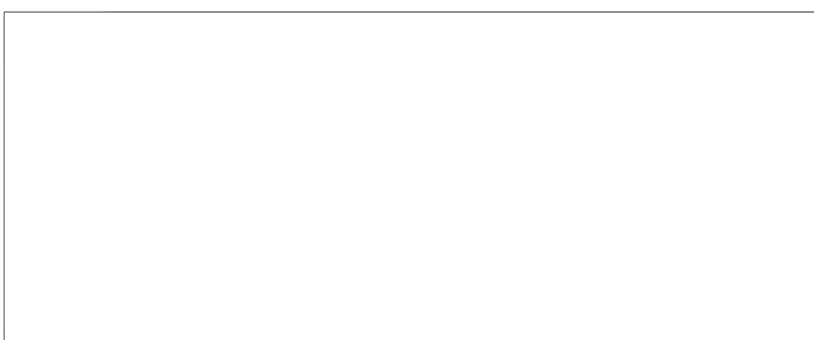
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JORDAN



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**SOUTH VIETNAM**

The Saigon government is maintaining pressure on opposition elements. A Buddhist newspaper was closed on 27 December for publishing an article which allegedly incited dissension and promoted religious discrimination. Another round of demonstrations against the National Assembly's Lower House is planned for early this week unless the chamber acts against the three deputies accused by the government of pro-Communist affiliations and activities. A special committee of the House has completed its investigation of government charges and will report to the full chamber on 30 December.

*There are no solid indications that the House intends to make the three deputies available to government prosecution by lifting their parliamentary immunity. Regardless of how the affair is resolved it is certain to further impair relations between the executive and the legislature.*

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**JAPAN**

The landslide election victory of Prime Minister Sato's Liberal Democratic Party exceeded the most optimistic forecasts of the party leadership. The total strength of the Liberal Democratic Party in the 486-seat lower house was boosted to 300 when a dozen successful independent candidates joined the party following the election. The Socialist Party, the largest opposition group, suffered a humiliating defeat, winning only 90 seats as compared with 140 in the 1967 general elections.

*Ruling Liberal Democratic leaders will interpret these results as a mandate for maintaining Sato's policies of continued close security ties with the United States and as approval for the agreement on reversion of Okinawa to Japanese control.*

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